AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 17, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009-10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 660

Introduced by Assembly Member Torrico

February 25, 2009

An act to amend Section 7145.5 of the Business and Professions Code, and to add Chapter 1.9 (commencing with Section 13200) to Part 2 of Division 12 of, and to repeal Sections 13200.02 and 13200.05 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to fire suppression.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 660, as amended, Torrico. Sprinkler fitters: licensing.

Existing law establishes the Office of the State Fire Marshal for specified purposes and requires the appointment by the Governor of the State Fire Marshal. Existing law requires the State Fire Marshal to adopt and administer regulations and building standards he or she deems necessary in order to, among other things, establish and control a program for servicing, testing, and maintaining all automatic fire extinguishing systems, including fire sprinkler systems.

The Contractors' State License Law provides for the licensing and regulation of contractors by the Contractors' State License Board. Under that law, the registrar may refuse to issue, reinstate, reactivate, or renew a license or may suspend a license for the failure of a licensee to resolve all outstanding final liabilities, which include taxes, additions to tax, penalties, interest, and any fees that may be assessed by the board or other specified state agencies.

This bill would include the assessments of the State Fire Marshal among the state agencies *liabilities* for which a license may be affected for nonpayment.

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This bill would enact a comprehensive program for the certification and regulation of sprinkler fitters, as defined, by the State Fire Marshal. The bill would prohibit a person from performing work on any fire suppression system, as defined, unless he or she possesses a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate issued by the State Fire Marshal, except as specified, and would prohibit a person or entity from employing a person to perform work on a fire suppression system without such a certificate or permit. The bill would provide for the issuance of, and would set forth eligibility standards for, various certificates and permits, and would require the State Fire Marshal to adopt a schedule of fees in amounts necessary to cover the cost of administering and enforcing these provisions.

This bill would provide for the enforcement of these provisions by the State Fire Marshal, and would require the State Fire Marshal to revoke or suspend a certificate or permit, or reprimand a certificate or permitholder, for specified reasons. The bill would also provide that a person licensed under the Contractors' State License Law who violates these provisions shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Contractors' State License Board, and would allow the Department of Justice board to suspend a license, registration, or certificate under certain circumstances. A knowing and willful violation of these licensing and regulatory provisions would be a misdemeanor. By creating a new crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 7145.5 of the Business and Professions 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 7145.5. (a) The registrar may refuse to issue, reinstate,
- reactivate, or renew a license or may suspend a license for the failure of a licensee to resolve all outstanding final liabilities, which
- include taxes, additions to tax, penalties, interest, and any fees that
- may be assessed by the board, the Department of Industrial

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Relations, the Employment Development Department, the State Fire Marshal, or the Franchise Tax Board.

- (1) Until the debts covered by this section are satisfied, the qualifying person and any other personnel of record named on a license that has been suspended under this section shall be prohibited from serving in any capacity that is subject to licensure under this chapter, but shall be permitted to act in the capacity of a nonsupervising bona fide employee.
- (2) The license of any other renewable licensed entity with any of the same personnel of record that have been assessed an outstanding liability covered by this section shall be suspended until the debt has been satisfied or until the same personnel of record disassociate themselves from the renewable licensed entity.
- (b) The refusal to issue a license or the suspension of a license as provided by this section shall be applicable only if the registrar has mailed a notice preliminary to the refusal or suspension that indicates that the license will be refused or suspended by a date certain. This preliminary notice shall be mailed to the licensee at least 60 days before the date certain.
- (c) In the case of outstanding final liabilities assessed by the Franchise Tax Board, this section shall be operative within 60 days after the Contractors' State License Board has provided the Franchise Tax Board with the information required under Section 30, relating to licensing information that includes the federal employee identification number or social security number.
- (d) All versions of the application for contractors' licenses shall include, as part of the application, an authorization by the applicant, in the form and manner mutually agreeable to the Franchise Tax Board and the board, for the Franchise Tax Board to disclose the tax information that is required for the registrar to administer this section. The Franchise Tax Board may from time to time audit these authorizations.
- SEC. 2. Chapter 1.9 (commencing with Section 13200) is added to Part 2 of Division 12 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Chapter 1.9. Sprinkler Fitter Certification Act

13200. The Legislature finds and declares that:

(a) The types of fire suppression systems used in society and the manner in which they are constructed and installed have a AB 660 —4—

1 direct and substantial impact on public health, safety, and the 2 environment.

- (b) Improper construction or installation of fire suppression systems can be potentially lethal, cause serious damage to property, and have other adverse effects on public health and safety.
- (c) Establishing minimum standards for work performed on fire suppression sprinkler systems, and criteria for the training, testing, and certification of the persons performing work in the sprinkler fitter trade, is essential to protecting public health and safety.
- 13200.01. The following definitions apply for the purposes of this chapter:
- (a) "Direct and immediate supervision" means to be physically on the project site while supervising others.
- (b) "Fire suppression system" means an automatic or manual system designed to protect occupants or structures from fire. "Fire suppression system" includes, but is not limited to, a water sprinkler system, water spray system, foam water system, foam-water spray system, carbon dioxide system, foam extinguishing system, dry chemical system, wet chemical system, halogenated system, and other chemical systems used for fire protection. "Fire suppression system" also includes the supply mains, sprinkler piping, risers, yard hydrants, standpipes, tank heaters, hose connections to sprinkler systems, air lines, and protection. "Fire suppression system" also includes sprinkler piping, risers, standpipes, aboveground supply lines, tank heaters, hose connections to sprinkler systems, air lines, thermal systems used in connection with sprinklers, and pumps dedicated for fire suppression.
- (c) "Limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate" means a certificate permitting the holder to perform work on a fire suppression system, but limited to only that work subject to NFPA 13D Standard for the Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes and NFPA 13R Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies Up To and Including Four Stories in Height, as published by the National Fire Protection Association.
- (d) "Sprinkler fitter" means a person, other than an apprentice regulated under this chapter, who performs work on a fire suppression system.

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(e) "Sprinkler fitter apprentice permit" means a permit issued pursuant to Section 13200.04 13200.05.

- (f) "Sprinkler fitter certificate" means a certificate issued to a sprinkler fitter pursuant to Section-13200.03 13200.04.
- (g) "Sprinkler fitter trainee permit" means a permit issued to a person pursuant to Section-13200.05 13200.06.
- (h) "Sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program" means any apprenticeship training program that is registered with and approved by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training in accordance with the requirements of Part 29 of Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or any state apprenticeship agency, and consists of a minimum 8,000 hours of documented practical experience of work on fire suppression systems, of which at least 700 of these hours are in related instruction, including classroom or shop instruction in the sprinkler fitter trade.
- (i) "Work on a fire suppression system" means the onsite layout, onsite fabrication, testing, inspection, certification, work, and practice concerning the construction, installation, alteration, extension, or removal or extension of fire suppression systems. "Work on a fire suppression system" shall not include any of the following:
- (1) Work performed on a fire alarm system, portable fire extinguisher, or dry standpipe that is not connected to a fire suppression system.
- (2) Work performed on yard hydrants and underground water supply lines up to the point the piping enters the building.
 - (3) Demolition work.
- (4) Work performed on one- and two-family dwellings and manufactured homes as defined in the most recent edition of the California Building Code.
 - (2)
- 33 (5) An inspection or other service performed by a state or local fire official.
- 35 (3)

- (6) The servicing, testing, or maintaining of automatic fire extinguishing systems under Chapter 1.8 (commencing with Section 13195), or the regulations adopted pursuant to that chapter.
- 13200.02. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (g) and Section 40 13200.07 13200.08, a person shall not perform work on any fire

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suppression system unless he or she possesses a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate issued by the State Fire Marshal.

- (b) A person or entity shall not employ a person or cause or direct a person to perform work on a fire suppression system unless the person performing that work possesses either of the following:
- (1) A valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate issued pursuant to this chapter.
- (2) A valid sprinkler fitter apprentice or sprinkler fitter trainee permit issued pursuant to this chapter. The holder of a sprinkler fitter apprentice or trainee permit shall be directly or immediately supervised by a holder of a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate, as appropriate.
- (c) A person or entity shall not contract to perform work on a fire suppression system without holding a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate issued pursuant to this chapter, or employing certified sprinkler fitters as required by this chapter. Each employee of an entity who physically performs work on a fire suppression system shall hold the appropriate certificate or permit issued pursuant to this chapter.
- (d) A person shall not solicit, by sign, listing, or any other form of advertisement, work regulated by this chapter unless he or she has been certified in accordance with this chapter or employs sprinkler fitters certified pursuant to this chapter.
- (e) The requirements of this chapter do not apply to a person performing work on his or her private residence if that residence is not used for commercial purposes.
- (f) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a local jurisdiction from establishing standards for the training, testing, and certification of the sprinkler fitter trade that exceed the standards established by this chapter.
- (g) (1) A person may work on a fire suppression system if he or she holds a valid sprinkler fitter trainee permit issued pursuant to Section—13200.05 13200.06 and both of the following requirements are satisfied:
- (A) The work performed is limited to work subject to NFPA 13D Standard for the Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes or NFPA 13R Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies Up To and Including

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Four Stories in Height, as published by the National Fire Protection Association.

- (B) The work is performed under the direct and immediate supervision of a holder of a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate, as appropriate, in accordance with this chapter.
- (2) A person may work on a fire suppression system if he or she holds a valid sprinkler fitter apprentice permit issued pursuant to Section-13200.04 *13200.05* if the work performed is within the scope of the permit, and if the work is performed only under the direct and immediate supervision of a holder of a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate, as appropriate, in accordance with this chapter.
- (h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2014, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2014, deletes or extends that date. 13200.02.
- 13200.03. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (g), a person shall not perform work on any fire suppression system unless he or she possesses a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate issued by the State Fire Marshal.
- (b) A person shall not employ a person or cause or direct a person to perform work on a fire suppression system unless the person performing that work possesses either of the following:
- (1) A valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate issued pursuant to this chapter.
- (2) A valid sprinkler fitter apprentice permit issued pursuant to this chapter if directly or immediately supervised by a holder of a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate, as appropriate, and in accordance with this chapter.
- (c) A person or entity shall not contract to perform work on a fire suppression system without holding a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate issued pursuant to this chapter or employing certified sprinkler fitters as required by this chapter. Each employee of an entity who physically performs work on a fire suppression system shall hold the appropriate certificate or permit issued pursuant to this chapter.
- (d) A person shall not solicit, by sign, listing, or any other form of advertisement, work regulated by this chapter unless he has

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been certified in accordance with this chapter or employs sprinkler fitters certified pursuant to this chapter.

- (e) The requirements of this chapter do not apply to a person performing work on his or her private residence if that residence is not used for commercial purposes.
- (f) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a local jurisdiction from establishing standards for the training, testing, and certification of the sprinkler fitter trade that exceed the standards established by this chapter.
- (g) A person may work on a fire suppression system if he or she holds a valid sprinkler fitter apprentice permit issued pursuant to Section-13200.04 *13200.05* if the work performed is within the scope of the permit, and if the work is performed only under the direct and immediate supervision of a holder of a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate, as appropriate, in accordance with this chapter.
 - (h) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2014. 13200.03.
- 13200.04. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall award a sprinkler fitter certificate under this chapter to a person who files an application and pays the application fee as established by the State Fire Marshal, and who does any of the following:
- (1) Provides evidence demonstrating that he or she has successfully completed an approved sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program, and takes and passes an examination as established by the State Fire Marshal.
- (2) Provides evidence demonstrating that he or she has successfully completed a plumbing or pipe fitters pipefitters apprenticeship program approved by the Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards, on or before January 1, 2010, and takes and passes an examination as established by the State Fire Marshal.
- (3) With respect to a person who holds a valid C-16 license as a fire protection contractor, as set forth in Section 832.16 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, takes and passes a written examination given by the State Fire Marshal.
 - (4) Satisfies the requirements of Section 13200.06 13200.07.
 - (5) Satisfies the requirements of Section 13200.07 13200.08.
- 39 (b) The State Fire Marshal shall award a limited scope sprinkler 40 fitter certificate under this chapter to a person who files an

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application and pays the application fee as established by the State Fire Marshal, and who does any of the following:

- (1) Provides evidence demonstrating that he or she has successfully completed at least 3,600 hours of documented practical experience of work on fire suppression systems, of which at least 350 hours were in related instruction, including classroom or shop instruction while in any state or federally approved sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program, and who takes and passes an examination as established by the State Fire Marshal.
 - (2) Satisfies the requirements of Section 13200.06 13200.07.
 - (3) Satisfies the requirements of Section 13200.07 13200.08.
- (c) (1) Each person holding a sprinkler fitter certificate or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate under this chapter shall, after the completion of one year following his or her initial certification, complete a minimum of eight hours annually of skill training-on related specifically to the installation of fire suppression systems.
- (2) Courses for the training required by this subdivision shall be preapproved by the State Fire Marshal.
- (d) A sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate under this chapter shall be valid for a period of one year from date of issuance.
- (e) The State Fire Marshal shall renew for a period of one year a sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate that is valid and in good standing upon receiving a completed renewal application, proof of completion of at least eight hours of continuing education for that period in accordance with subdivision (c), and a renewal fee as determined by the State Fire Marshal.
- (f) The State Fire Marshal shall issue a photo identification card to each person who receives a sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate, or sprinkler fitter apprentice or sprinkler fitter trainee permit. Each certificate or permitholder shall maintain the photo identification card in his or her possession at all times when performing work on a fire suppression system.

13200.04.

13200.05. (a) A person who does not possess a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate may obtain a sprinkler fitter apprentice permit if the person does both of the following:

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(1) Files an application and pays an application fee as established by the State Fire Marshal.

- (2) Provides evidence to the State Fire Marshal, in a form acceptable to the State Fire Marshal, that he or she is enrolled in and attending an approved fire sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program of a federally approved apprenticeship agency that complies with the requirements of Part 29 of Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, any sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program approved by the State Fire Marshal, or a plumbing or pipe fitters pipefitters apprenticeship program approved by the Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards.
- (b) A sprinkler fitter apprentice permit issued under this section shall be valid for a period of three years from date of issuance.
- (c) The State Fire Marshal shall renew for a period of up to three years a sprinkler fitter apprentice permit issued under this section if the permit is valid and in good standing and the State Fire Marshal has received a completed renewal application and a renewal fee as determined by the State Fire Marshal.
- (d) A sprinkler fitter apprentice permit shall remain valid only while the holder is enrolled in an approved apprenticeship program. 13200.05.
- 13200.06. (a) A person who does not possess a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate may obtain a sprinkler fitter trainee permit if the person files an application and pays an application fee as established by the State Fire Marshal.
- (b) A sprinkler fitter trainee permit shall be valid only until January 1, 2014, and shall not be reissued or renewed.
- (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2014, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2014, deletes or extends that date.

13200.06.

- 13200.07. The State Fire Marshal shall issue a sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate, without examination, to a person who satisfies the following requirements:
- (a) Files an application and pays an application fee as established by the State Fire Marshal.
- (b) Provides evidence acceptable to the State Fire Marshal that he or she is a currently practicing, competent sprinkler fitter who holds a similar authorization granted by a state with qualification requirements that are substantially similar to, or greater than, those

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established under this chapter, provided that the state grants authorization to any competent person holding a certificate under this chapter.

13200.07.

- 13200.08. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall issue a sprinkler fitter certificate, without examination, to any person who, on or before June 30, 2010, submits the necessary certification application to the State Fire Marshal, pays all required fees, and submits evidence acceptable to the State Fire Marshal that he or she has done any of the following:
- (1) Successfully completed any state or federally approved sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program.
- (2) Performed at least 8,000 hours of documented practical experience of work on fire suppression systems within the past five years.
- (3) Successfully completed a plumbing or pipe fitters pipefitters apprenticeship program approved by the Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards on or before January 1, 2010.
- (b) The State Fire Marshal shall issue a limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate, without examination, to any person who, on or before June 30, 2010, submits the necessary certification application to the State Fire Marshal, pays all required fees, and submits evidence acceptable to the State Fire Marshal that he or she has done any of the following:
- (1) Successfully completed any state or federally approved sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program.
- (2) Performed at least 3,600 hours of documented practical experience of work on fire suppression systems within the past five years.
- (3) Successfully completed a plumbing or pipe fitters pipefitters apprenticeship program approved by the Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards on or before January 1, 2010.
- 35 (c) A certificate issued pursuant to this section shall expire on December 31, 2010, and thereafter be renewed in accordance with the act.
- 38 13200.08.
- *13200.09*. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall maintain a central 40 registry of the names of all persons to whom it has issued sprinkler

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fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificates and sprinkler fitter apprentice or sprinkler fitter trainee permits.

(b) The certificate and permit registry shall be maintained on a publicly accessible Internet Web site and shall be updated on a monthly basis.

13200.09.

- 13200.10. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall adopt a schedule of fees to be paid by holders of certificates and permits in amounts that are determined by the State Fire Marshal to be necessary to cover the cost of administering and enforcing the provisions of this chapter. Any city or county fire department, or any district providing fire protection services, may adopt a schedule of fees as required to cover the cost of enforcing the provisions of this chapter.
- (b) Original and renewal certificates and permits shall be valid for the period from January 1 to December 31. The annual renewal period shall begin on September 1 and end on November 1 preceding the year for which the renewal is requested. A penalty of 50 percent of the certificate or permit fee shall be assessed in all cases in which the renewal fees are not paid on or before the November 1 preceding the year for which renewal is requested.
- (c) All original and renewal fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the State Fire Marshal Licensing and Certification Fund established pursuant to Section 13137 and shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, only for the purposes specified in this chapter.

13200.10.

13200.11. It shall be unlawful and a violation of this chapter for any person to do any of the following:

- (a) Perform work on a fire suppression system without possessing a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate, or a sprinkler fitter apprentice or trainee permit, pursuant to this chapter.
- (b) Employ a person, or cause or direct a person, to perform work on a fire suppression system unless the person performing that work holds a sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate, or sprinkler fitter apprentice or trainee permit, issued pursuant to this chapter.
- 39 (c) Engage in other conduct prohibited by Section 13200.02 of 40 this chapter.

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(d) Obtain a certificate or permit pursuant to this chapter through error, fraud, or intentional or reckless misrepresentation.

- (e) Impersonate another person, use an expired or revoked certificate or permit issued pursuant to this chapter, or use a sprinkler fitter apprentice permit when the holder is not enrolled in an approved apprenticeship program.
- (f) Give false or forged evidence of any kind to the State Fire Marshal or any employee thereof in an application for the issuance or renewal of a certificate or permit under this chapter.
- (g) Knowingly or recklessly make a material false statement regarding a person's certificate or permit status with intent to influence, persuade, or induce an individual to contract for services regulated under this chapter.

13200.11.

- 13200.12. (a) The requirements of this chapter shall be enforced by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Sections 13145 and 13146.
- (b) The State Fire Marshal may inspect project worksites where work on fire suppression systems is being performed to ensure that persons performing that work possess valid certificates or permits as required by this chapter. The State Fire Marshal shall require persons performing that work to provide proof of applicable certificates or permits and shall maintain records of inspections conducted for this purpose.
- (c) In any circumstance in which the State Fire Marshal determines that work on fire suppression systems is being performed in violation of this chapter, he or she shall issue or cause to be issued a stop work order requiring that work to cease. The work shall not be resumed until a full investigation has been undertaken and verification has been made that all work on the fire suppression system in question has been performed by duly authorized persons.

13200.12.

13200.13. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall revoke or suspend a sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate or sprinkler fitter apprentice or trainee permit, or reprimand a certificate or permitholder, for incompetence or for any violation of this chapter or of rules or regulations of the State Fire Marshal issued pursuant to this chapter.

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(b) (1) Any person who violates any provision of this chapter or any applicable rule, regulation, permit or other order of the State Fire Marshal shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each act or violation.

- (2) Each day a person performs work on a fire suppression system without a valid sprinkler fitter or limited scope sprinkler fitter certificate or apprentice or trainee permit as required by this chapter shall constitute a separate violation.
- (c) Any person licensed under Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to Section 7110 of the Business and Professions Code and, accordingly, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Contractors' State License Board.
- (d) A person who knowingly or willfully violates this chapter or any applicable rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (e) In addition to any disciplinary action taken by the State Fire Marshal or the Contractors' State License Board, the Department of Justice board, after a hearing, may suspend, for a period of up to one year, any license, registration, or certificate issued by the state to a person or entity that knowingly or recklessly employs or directs a person to perform work on a fire suppression system in violation of this chapter.
- SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution.